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of *Ethics* and *The Contemporary Review*, together with addresses on similar subjects delivered before the Co-operative Wholesale Society and the South Place Ethical Society of Finsbury. He reminds his readers that they are "exoteric discourses," as distinguished from technical esoteric inquiries. "It seems to me possible," he says, "to discuss practical questions of political and social ethics on the basis of what may be called evolutionary utilitarianism, without raising, or at least without discussing, metaphysical questions, provided that one may take for granted that faith in the value and meaning of human society and human history which is implied in all serious political and social effort. I hold, indeed, that a thoroughly scientific treatment of ethics is impossible without a philosophical basis; and that this faith, of which I have spoken, in the ultimate rationality of the world can only find a theoretical justification in a metaphysic or, in the Aristotelian phrase, in a theology."

In the first paper, he has considered the light which biological theories of evolution throw upon the history of human society and on the practical problems of human society. In the second lecture, he has discussed the question of political equality; in the third, that of law and liberty, or state interference; in the fourth, civic duties and party politics; in the fifth, the ethical value of the commemoration of past events; in the sixth, the problems of war and peace; in the seventh, the ultimate value of social effort; and in the eighth and last, the time-honored problem of free will and responsibility.

The author's views have everywhere been clearly and accurately stated, and will be found to be remunerative reading. μ.

THE PROBLEM OF METAPHYSICS AND THE MEANING OF METAPHYSICAL EXPLANATION. An Essay in Definitions. By *Hartley Burr Alexander, Ph. D.*, Sometime Fellow in Philosophy, Columbia University. Columbia University Contributions to Philosophy, Psychology, and Education. Vol. X., No. 1. New York: The Macmillan Co. Berlin: Mayer & Müller, Markgrafenstrasse. 1902. Pages, 130. Price, 75 cents.

On the assumption that most of our differences in matters metaphysical are misunderstandings and due to our failing to apprehend one another's meanings, it has been the endeavor of the author of the present brochure to overhaul thoroughly our principal metaphysical concepts and to submit them to critical analysis and scrutiny. The subjects he has considered are such as the following: The Meaning of Knowledge, The Object of Knowledge, Explanation and Description, The Principle of Identity, The Principle of Causality, The Principle of Sufficient Reason, Truth and Its Criteria.

The book is thus essentially a study of terms. "It endeavors," in the words of the author, "to define our more elemental metaphysical concepts, and to show some shades of meaning conveyed by the words we use, aspects we might emphasize, distinctions we should render clear. But in this the author does not attempt

encyclopædic lexicography: it is not his purpose to give exhaustive definition nor full historical exposition of the meaning of any term. It is only for method that the essay proceeds by definition; its purpose is to outline as clearly as possible the central problem and import of all metaphysic, and for the accomplishment of this no method is likely to prove so fruitful as the Aristotelian study of concepts. But it must not be understood that there is any endeavor at metaphysical construction. In all ways effort has been directed to the avoidance of this. . . . No final metaphysical solution is possible, because so long as human intelligence broadens metaphysical truth must alter. It is not independent nor static, but exists for knowledge alone."

μ.

THE PSYCHOLOGICAL INDEX, No. 8. A Bibliography of the Literature of Psychology and Cognate Subjects for 1901. Compiled by *Howard C. Warren*, Princeton University, with the co-operation of J. Languier des Bancelles, Paris, Leo Hirschlauff, Berlin, Charles D. Isenberg, New York, and W. H. R. Rivers, Cambridge (Eng.). New York: The Macmillan Company. Pages, viii, 206.

The Psychological Index is now published not only as part of the *Psychological Review*, but also as a bibliographical supplement to Professor Baldwin's *Dictionary of Philosophy and Psychology*. This bibliography of psychological literature includes original publications in all languages, together with translations and new editions in English, French, and German. The many subjects cognate to psychology are catalogued, viz., anatomy and physiology, pathology, anthropology, criminology, general philosophy, etc. Two thousand nine hundred and eighty-five titles of books and articles are listed,—a number from which some conception may be gained of the extent of the annual literature of this department.

μ.

RESEARCHES ON THE RHYTHM OF SPEECH. By *J. E. Wallace Wallin*, Ph. D. Reprinted from Vol. IX. (1901) of the Studies from the Yale Psychological Laboratory. Yale University, New Haven, Conn. 1902. Pp., 142. Price, \$1.00.

Dr. Wallin has presented in this brochure a very painstaking and exhaustive analysis of the rhythm of poetry. He first cursorily reviews the work done by his predecessors in determining experimentally the time relations of speech, and shows that improved methods of speech investigation are imperatively necessary. He adds: "Two types of methods may be used. The former is largely the method which has prevailed up to the present time. The sounds of spoken language have been measured by means of finger beats, currents of air, and non-reproducible sound vibrations. A more direct method consists in measuring directly the sounds recorded in, and reproduced by, a talking machine." The experiments based on these methods were begun in the early summer of 1900 and carried out in the academic year of 1900-1901.